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REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 23rd November 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

2657. The Boer war has, says the *Bengalee*, entered upon a new phase. It has degenerated into a war of extermination, and wars of extermination are supposed to be

The Boer war.

relics of savage times.

The Boer prisoners taken in battle are being deported, in hundreds, to foreign lands. The Boer women and children are being driven into refugee camps to die of malignant diseases, brought on by confined space and spare diet. The Boer farm-houses are being burnt down, and the deserted fields are rapidly being changed into vast wildernesses. All the horrors of war have been let loose on the devoted countries. And, with the exception of the massacre of prisoners, taken in battle, by the victorious troops, the Boer war promises to resemble the tribal war of a darker age in all their horrors. It has come to resemble a game of chess played according to European rules. Every piece, every pawn must be taken, before the game can be finished.

And the latest development of the insensate policy inaugurated by Mr. Chamberlain has been that at present England has to fight not only the Boers of the Transvaal and the Orange State, but the rebel Dutch of Natal and the Cape. That policy has not only committed the Empire to a war which is an unprecedented drain on it, in men and money, but it has succeeded in converting thousands of peaceful and loyal citizens of the Empire into rebels at heart and hundreds into open rebels against the Empire.

BENGALIEE,
21st Nov. 1901.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2658. The *Behar Herald* publishes the petition filed by Torab Ali before the Magistrate of Patna, complaining against the attitude of Mr. D. Sunder, Subdivisional Officer of Behar, in the case of Ulfat Miah, the petitioner's brother, and also publishes the explanation furnished by Mr. Sunder.

It urges the transfer of Mr. Sunder from the subdivision, for the simple reason that the people might not have occasion to suspect the conduct of the officer who is entrusted with the administration of justice.

BEHAR HERALD,
16th Nov. 1901.

(d)—Education.

2659. The *Bengalee* complains that in Mirzapore street in which there are several colleges and schools, there are two houses of ill-fame, one adjoining the City Institution and the other adjoining Muhammad Laik's School. The neighbours and the Educational authorities would be grateful if His Honour and the police would rid the locality of this nuisance.

Social evil near colleges.

BENGALIEE,
16th Nov. 1901.

(e)—Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government.

2660. The following extract is taken from *Power and Guardian* :—

The Health Department of the Calcutta Municipality in a case.

I was overtaken by mingled feelings of sorrow and amusement on one of my friends reporting to me of the madness of the Health Department of the Calcutta Corporation. A child, a year old, died in the house of a poor but respectable family, living in tiled huts. The child suffered for about two months from fever, flatulence and other complications. Two days after its death, about half-a-dozen officers of the Health Department appeared on the scene and over-flooded the huts with the so-called disinfectants. If perchloride of zinc is used in the disinfectants, who is to be held responsible for mercurial affections in the inmates who do not put on shoes at all? Surely, this is madness, pure and simple.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
10th Nov. 1901.

2661. The *Indian Mirror* remarks that the verdict of public opinion, both Indian and Anglo-Indian, is unanimous in condemning the present Municipal Government of Calcutta. There are complaints heard against the Municipal executive from every quarter of the town; a feeling of alarm has

INDIAN MIRROR,
17th Nov. 1901.

The Calcutta Municipal Corporation.

arisen amongst the poorer classes at the manner in which municipal dues are realized and rate-payers are treated with *zulum* unheard of before. For these reasons much weight is not attached by the *Mirror* to the flattering terms in which the Government of Bengal has reviewed the new Corporation's first year's work. It is of opinion that the Government will some day or other come to acknowledge that present Corporation is a failure, and that the new law was as uncalled for as it was reactionary.

BENGALUR,
20th Nov. 1901.

2662. The *Bengalee* calls attention to the imperfections resulting from the numerous changes which have taken place in the *personnel* of the head of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, and that it is hopeless to expect efficiency under such a state of things. It is glad to see the *Englishman* raise a protest against these frequent changes, and agrees with it in thinking that the appointment should not be the monopoly of the Civil Service, and the appointment of Mr. Silk would be so far satisfactory that it would break up an undeserved monopoly.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
22nd Nov. 1901.

2663. The *Hindoo Patriot* is not prepared to accept the suggestion that the Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation should be given to Mr. Silk, because, if it is to be given outside the Civil Service, it must be given to a tried man. It suggests Babu Nilambhar Mukerji, the present Vice-Chairman, who has acted as Chairman on several occasions.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Nov. 1901.

2664. In the opinion of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* the most important department of the State is the Department of Agriculture, to which the Government, however, pays the least attention. Three-fourths of the energies of the officials in this country are expended in stamping out crime, and the most important business of the district autocrats is to send people to jail and, having sent them there, to see that they do not escape. This idea of their mission in this country is erroneous. English rulers are here to make the people more manly, more prosperous and more happy; otherwise their mission is a failure.

Instead of, as now, having a police-station for every 10 miles, there ought to be an agricultural school with a farm attached to it. Instead of jails, there should be granaries, filled with grains, seeds, agricultural implements and cattle. Government should also buy grain from the peasants which would be advantageous to both parties.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
18th Nov. 1901.

2665. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Midnapore correspondent reports that in the late *Puja* rush four or five persons were crushed to death while seeking admission into the temple at Puri. This gives an idea of the state of affairs at the railway station where nothing was done to mitigate the sufferings of the large number of travellers using the railway. They were, it is alleged, rudely handled and otherwise ill-treated.

BENGALUR,
19th Nov. 1901.

2666. The *Bengalee* complains of the cooly nuisance at the Howrah Railway Station, the manner in which they seize people's luggage, their general insolence and extortion, and hopes that the proper authorities will take notice of their conduct and bring them under control.

BENGALUR,
21st Nov. 1901.

2667. The *Bengalee* complains that there is much room for improvement in the management of affairs in the Puri Railway Station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The station staff are unmindful of the comforts of passengers, the time for buying tickets is very short, and the rush at the Booking office is consequently very great. It was not aware that Indian officials could also be guilty of insolence to railway passengers. It draws the attention of the authorities to these matters, and hopes they will be promptly remedied.

(h)—General.

2668. Referring to the Viceroy's Silchar reply on the subject of the

BENGAL, 17th Nov. 1901.

The separation of the judicial and executive functions.

separation of the judicial and executive functions, the *Bengalee* reminds His Excellency that the two most important measures of this generation (Local Self-Government and the expansion of the Councils) were due to the initiation of the Government of India; in both cases the Viceroy took the lead and the local Governments were not consulted.

This was done by Viceroys credited with much less strength of purpose than Lord Curzon. It is not, indeed, necessary that the reform should be introduced wholesale, throughout the Empire, or throughout particular provinces. It is quite enough, if it is tried in particular areas, selected with judgment and discrimination; and the public are willing to abide by the results of the experiment.

2669. While objecting to official tours when they partake of the nature

BENGAL, 17th Nov. 1901.

Lord Curzon and official tours.

of huge picnics, the *Bengalee* welcomes them, because they afford the rulers of the land an opportunity to acquaint themselves with local wants and grievances and to cultivate the acquaintance of local leaders. But, it asks, is any attempt made to bring the Government and the leaders of public opinion in closer touch? As this is not done, half the usefulness of these tours is gone. The writer submits these observations for Lord Curzon's consideration, remarking that cut-and-dried tours, and hastening from one town to another, would but give one the most superficial knowledge of the people. They must be supplemented by deeper acquaintance with the people, such as they are, and not such as they appear through official spectacles. Formal interviews, it is urged, are ceremonial affairs rather than business audiences, and if real business has to be transacted, the interview must be of a totally different character. The journal looks to Lord Curzon to make a departure in these matters, so as to place the Government of India in intimate touch with the people.

2670. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to a case to show that Anglo-

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 18th Nov. 1901.

A case in Assam.

Indian residents of Assam, who are neither in the Executive nor in the Judicial service of the Government, are privileged to take in hand criminal cases and dispose of them according to their common sense view of the cases. It appears that two Muhammadans quarrelled over some money and blows were exchanged. One of the combatants thereupon complained to his master, Mr. Logan, who took up his side and caned the other man, Kasim. Kasim lodged a complaint at the thana, and the police enquired and found the allegations substantially true. When the case came before the senior Extra Assistant Commissioner, a native, the latter issued summonses on Mr. Logan and his men under section 143, Indian Penal Code, subject to the approval of the Deputy Commissioner. The defence set up by Mr. Logan was that he had caned the boy Kasim by way of saving him from prosecution, and in spite of the report of the District Superintendent of Police who held that Mr. Logan was not justified in taking the law into his own hands, the Deputy Commissioner dismissed the complaint under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, remarking that Mr. Logan took a common sense view of the case, and that under the circumstances he was justified in settling the case as he did.

The *Patrika* remarks in conclusion :—

The police is said to be all powerful. It can, it is said, work marvels, but the case under notice shows that its power is reduced to a cypher when it comes into collision with a European.

2671. On the authority of the *Bankura Darpan*, the *Indian Mirror* is

INDIAN MIRROR, 19th Nov. 1901.

The dismemberment of Bankura.

glad to learn that the Bengal Government has seen through the difficulty, and given up the idea of abolishing the Bankura district. To meet present requirements, however, it learns that the Govindpore subdivision of the Manbhum district has been ordered to be annexed to Burdwan, allowing the zamindars of the subdivision to enjoy, as usual, the privileges of the provisions of the Encumbered Estates Act. This appears to be a most satisfactory arrangement, under present circumstances. The subdivisional

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
20th Nov. 1901.

offices, however, would be removed from Gobindpore to Dhanbad station which is expected to be a convenient arrangement for the public.

2672. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* in the course of an article in which it discusses the reasons why Lord Curzon would not accept the Presidency of the next Indian National Congress if it were offered to him, remarks:—

Does Lord Curzon mean to inaugurate a reform? Let His Lordship propose it to his guests. Does he wish the zamindars of Bengal to develop the resources of the country? A personal request will receive immediate attention from them. In short, if the rulers and the ruled meet in private and talk over the public affairs, the difficulties of ruling the country would be reduced perceptibly. These difficulties are, however, increasing in proportion to the gradual widening of the gulf between the two classes. There is no longer that feeling of mutual confidence which existed two decades ago. It is Lord Curzon's personality which has, up till now, prevented the manifestation of any ill-feeling between them. That is to say, the Elgin and the Sandhurst methods of rule would have been pursued with a vengeance if Lord Curzon had not come opportunely and put a stop to that system.

BENGALUR,
20th Nov. 1901.

2673. The *Bengalee* complains that Mr. Anderson, the Deputy Accountant-General, Bengal, compels his clerks to attend office on Gazetted holidays and even on Sundays and to work ordinarily till late hours at night. It hopes the attention of the authorities will be drawn to the eccentricities of Mr. Anderson, and the grievances of Mr. Anderson's clerks will be at an end. Lord Curzon has invariably proved himself to be the clerk's patron, and it appeals to him to teach Mr. Anderson that His Lordship's recent circular, allowing discretion to heads of departments in the matter of holidays, is not to be too narrowly construed, and is not at all meant to be an engine of oppression in the hands of unsympathetic office-masters.

III.—LEGISLATION.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th Nov. 1901.

2674. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes the press opinions on the case of defamation brought against it and promises to reproduce others from day to day. It observes that there is likely to be a movement for the reform of the law of libel, in which case the Editor, Babu Motilal Ghose, has not suffered in vain. If the Government refuses to amend the law, the agitation will have the effect at least of making Magistrates careful in future.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
18th Nov. 1901.

2675. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* commends the spirit in which the Government Resolution on the trial of the Maharaja of Panna is conceived, but expresses the opinion that the constitution of the Committee appointed to try the Maharaja is defective. There should be one or more of the Maharaja's peers on the Committee, as was the case at the trial of the Gaekwar of Baroda.

BENGALUR,
20th Nov. 1901.

2676. The *Bengalee* considers that the Government has committed a blunder in the constitution of the Commission for the trial of the Maharaja of Panna, in that it has made it exclusively European in its *personnel*, denying the right of the Maharaja to be tried by his peers. If this step had been taken, the journal is of opinion that, should the Commission be forced to a conclusion adverse to the accused, not the faintest measure of dissent would be heard. As at present constituted such a verdict would give rise to dissatisfaction. The *Bengalee* is, however, glad that a Commission has been appointed which was not done in the case of the Maharajas of Jhalawar and Bharatpur, and is sure that the proceedings will be watched with great interest throughout India by Princes and people alike.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st Nov. 1901.

2677. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is of opinion that the trial of the Maharaja of Panna is a matter that vitally interests all the Indian Princes, any one of whom might find himself in the position of the unfortunate Maharaja—so full are their courts of

intrigues. They should bring to the notice of the Viceroy that fairness demands that the accused Maharaja should be allowed the privilege of a trial by his own peers. It next passes to the consideration of the fate of the Maharaja should the Commission find him innocent. Will the Government reinstate him? The Government of Lord Northbrook was confronted by this difficulty in the case of Mulhar Rao, who was found innocent by three members of the Commission. He was found guilty by a Government Resolution and dethroned. Judging from this precedent it is not likely that the Maharaja of Panna will ever be allowed to reoccupy the throne. This being the case, the trial, as arranged, seems a mockery. The *Patrika*, however, has faith in the Viceroy and is sure that His Excellency will do nothing which is likely to hurt the feelings of those who think him incapable of doing a wrong, even for political purposes.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Famine in South Behar.

2678. The following paragraph appears in the *Bengalee*:—

BENGALÉE,
21st Nov. 1901.

We very much regret that ill-health has led to a modification of the Lieutenant-Governor's programme of tour, and His Honour has given up the idea, we hope only temporarily, of visiting Deoghur and the neighbouring places. We trust, His Honour will soon be restored to his usual health. In the meantime, the situation at Deoghur, Simultolla and the neighbourhood is serious. Owing to inadequate rainfall, this tract of country is threatened with scarcity. The people are among the poorest; and the Government must come to their relief. We are glad to find that Mr. Williams, the Commissioner, is fully alive to the gravity of the situation. He visits Simultolla on the 28th instant when, no doubt, he will be in a position to see everything for himself.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2679. *Power and Guardian* recommends the suppression of all clubs now

Sweeps and lotteries.

issuing books of tickets for various sweepstakes and lotteries, especially those conducted by illiter-

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
10th Nov. 1901.

ate and half-educated youths of no status.

2680. *Power and Guardian* complains that educated Indians are now-a-days

Indians versus Eurasians.

not receiving their fair share of the loaves and fishes of Government appointments which are

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
10th Nov. 1901.

bestowed on Eurasians of little education. This injustice is detrimental to the interests of good government and will scarcely conduce to good feeling between the two communities.

One good effect of this policy, however, is the marked increase in the number of Indian youths now going into trade, and the superiority of the present day shop-keeper over his predecessor.

2681. In view of the growing want of sympathy between the governing

INDIAN MIRROR,
16th Nov. 1901.

The want of sympathy between the governing and the governed classes.

and the governed classes, the *Indian Mirror* suggests that a circular may be issued by the Government of India to all English officials in this country, asking them to mix more freely with the people, to

ascertain their wants and wishes, and to treat them with more sympathy than they have hitherto done. Every English official in this country ought to be told by the Viceroy that these things should form a part—an important part—of his duties.

It goes on to recommend His Excellency the Viceroy to appoint a Committee, consisting of a few English officials and some representative Indian gentlemen, for the purpose of considering the measures that might be adopted for contributing to an improved understanding between the dominant and the subject classes.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 23rd November 1901.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

The first of these is the fact that the Government has been unable to secure the necessary funds to carry out its policy. This is due to the fact that the Government has been unable to secure the necessary funds to carry out its policy. This is due to the fact that the Government has been unable to secure the necessary funds to carry out its policy. This is due to the fact that the Government has been unable to secure the necessary funds to carry out its policy.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF

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